School Bus Strike – Drive Back the Bosses' Attack!

The worldwide capitalist system is facing an economic crisis that the bosses are trying to solve on the backs of the workers. In New York, this means high unemployment, hospital closings, school closings and attacks against many of the few remaining good paying jobs. This is why it is significant that 8,800 school bus drivers and matrons are striking against cutbacks by New York's ruling class.

Bloomberg and Chancellor Walcott pretend to care about students, but their lies shine through when we consider that they've slashed the budget for public schools. Furthermore, Bloomberg has overseen attacks on city workers, higher fares on the MTA and less funding for hospitals – all of which mean that the entire working class will suffer. Meanwhile the city spared no expense in getting Wall Street back up and running after hurricane Sandy. In this context, it's a great thing that bus drivers and matrons are standing strong.

This strike should not be viewed as a bad thing for students. When workers stand up and resist, we are teaching young people about the importance of not accepting capitalism's injustices. The fact that a school bus strike has not occurred in NYC since 1979, and that strikes are so uncommon in this country, only encourages the bosses to take from us. Only when we strike do we force them to recognize our importance. And we remind ourselves and the next generation of our potential power.

It is no mere coincidence that the city government's attempt to open up city contracts affects mainly black and Latino workers and students. Capitalism's racist nature means that in times of crisis it is black and Latino workers that suffer the most. In employment, health care and education racism acts to super-exploit a section of the working class. Bloomberg & Co.'s attempts to undermine bus driver/matron job security will make school bus companies places with higher turn over. The bosses hope this will then lead to weaker unions and lower wages.

Unfortunately, even if this strike forces the bosses to concede their current demands, more fights lay ahead. No matter how strong unions and social movements are under capitalism, the bosses will try to get more out of us. This is because their system is inherently unstable and competitive. When the economy crashes workers are expected to pay the price. The constant competition between the rich in the United States, China and Europe leads to wars around the world over oil, markets and other resources. This then spells more cutbacks for publically funded workers here. This is the future that capitalism offers workers of the world: war and poverty.

This is why the Progressive Labor Party fights for communism. We want to build a world free of the bosses and their exploitation. We want to smash racism, the main tool of the bosses to keep their power. As we encourage all New Yorkers to stand in solidarity with the striking bus workers we invite you to join us.